Elementary Social Studies Curriculum: Habitats

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| **Catholic Theme** | Influence on OCT Standard of Practice |
| **Dignity of Work and Service** | *Ongoing Professional Learning (Trust):*  can be influenced by the Catholic Theme of Dignity of Work and Service as I model learning and education as a ‘lifelong journey”, not something that begins and ends within a certain period of time. I will ensure that I continue to expand my professional knowledge and skills as an educator which will lead to “best practices” in the classroom. Stakeholders such as parents and students expect and trust me to be delivering the curriculum using the best and proven methods of teaching. Hands-on, experiential science! God expects me to show that I consider my work in serving my students and community as vocation – what I am called to do. |
| **Mystery, Wonder and Awe** | *Professional Knowledge (Integrity):* can be influenced by the Catholic Theme of Mystery, Wonder and Awe as I lead my students to discover the mysteries of life and reproduction. All of the planet has been gifted to us by God and the wonder of the circle of life and how plants, animals and human beings co-exist is an opportunity to refer to our belief that God is miracle and all glory for creation is due God our Father. I must ensure that my learning is current and my ability to lead my students to facts and scientific discovery is able – but to also be confidently able to point out that when science is not able to explain how and when and where things occur…God is there. |
| **Community and the Common Good** | *Leadership in Learning Communities (Care):* can be influenced by the Catholic Theme of Community and the Common Good as I continue to participate actively in CPLC’s, sharing my ideas and experiences in the classroom that may provide insights for others or inform decisions made by grade divisions or school wide. To have confidence to bring to the table student culminating tasks at the end of the study of Habitats and accepting constructive feedback on it, for example, is helpful for all as we grow and learn. As I gain any specialized knowledge or skills, I will continue to share at a larger community level by leading workshops or participation in conferences. Placing the focus on what is best for the greater community and working for the good of others (students, parents, other teachers), rather than personal needs or desires, is what God wants us to do and is the way we share the light of Christ. |
| **Faith** | *Professional Practice (Respect):* can be influenced by the Catholic Theme of Faith as I remind myself to look for yet another way to reach that “hard to reach” kid. I know that I am called to find a way to ensure that “everyone gets what they need to succeed” in my class. I am called to be open to all types of pedagogical resources – even when this requires extra time and effort on my part to implement. Giving a student as many ways to “show what they know” about Habitats, even when it would be easier just to move on - will feed our faith that even when things seem impossible – there is always another way – everyone can and wants to achieve. |
| **Human Rights and Responsibilities** | *Commitment to students and student learning (Integrity/Respect)*: can be influenced by the Catholic Theme of Human Rights and Responsibilities as we consider that every student has the right to learn – and I as an educator have the responsibility to respect that right and to create an atmosphere of trust and love in my class in which individuals can be successful. In a study of Habitats, I need to be sensitive to and aware of Indigenous and diverse cultural lifestyles that might affect our study of environment and protection of resources and the human right to food and shelter. I need to help my students to understand and to have compassion. |